

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Original) A test kit for detecting bacterial endotoxin in an aqueous solution using a gel-clot method, said test kit comprising:

- (a) at least one first container containing freeze dried, endotoxin specific, horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate, whereby the sensitivity of the lysate is pre-certified;
- (b) at least one second container containing a defined quantity of endotoxin to serve as a positive control, wherein said defined quantity of endotoxin is pre-certified to positively react with the amebocyte lysate present in said first container; and
- (c) at least one disposable endotoxin-free transfer instrument.

Claim 2. (Original) The test kit of claim 1, wherein said horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate in component (a) is from *Limulus polyphemus*.

Claim 3. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, wherein said defined quantity of endotoxin in component (b) is two times the sensitivity of the amebocyte lysate in component (a).

Claim 4. (Original) The test kit of claim 3, wherein the level of sensitivity of the test kit for detecting endotoxin can vary based on the formulation of the amebocyte lysate in container one and the incubation time of containers one and two.

Claim 5. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, wherein the amount of said amebocyte lysate is 0.4, 0.5, or 0.6 mL.

Claim 6. (Original) The test kit of claim 5, wherein the amount of said amebocyte lysate is 0.5 mL.

Claim 7. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, wherein said aqueous solution is purified, distilled, sterile, non-sterile, or filtered water, water for injection, water for irrigation, or reverse osmosis water.

Claim 8. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, wherein said aqueous solution is dialysate.

Claim 9. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, wherein said first and second containers are test tubes.

Claim 10. (Original) The test kit of claim 9, wherein said test tubes are 12 x 75 mm and round-bottomed.

Claim 11. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, where said disposable endotoxin-free transfer instrument is a pipette.

Claim 12. (Original) The test kit of claim 2, further comprising written instructions for carrying out the test.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The test kit of claims 2, 3, 4, or 11, further comprising a written certificate of analysis of the amebocyte lysate sensitivity, the quantity of endotoxin in the positive control, and/or the endotoxin-free nature of the transfer instrument.

Claim 14. (Original) In a method for specifically detecting bacterial endotoxin in an aqueous solution by a gel clot method using horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate, the improvement comprising using a defined quantity of endotoxin to serve as a positive control, wherein said defined quantity of endotoxin is pre-certified to positively react with the horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate, and whereby the sensitivity of said gel clot method can vary based on the time of incubation of the test.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate is from *Limulus polyphemus*.

Claim 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the sensitivity of said gel clot method can vary based on the formulation of the amebocyte lysate.

Claim 17. (New) A method of detecting endotoxin comprising:

- (a) reconstituting freeze dried, endotoxin specific, horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate in a first container by adding sample to the first container, whereby the sensitivity of the horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate is pre-certified; and
- (b) adding about one-half of contents from the first container to a second container comprising a defined quantity of endotoxin to serve as a positive control, wherein said defined quantity of endotoxin is pre-certified to positively react with the horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate present in the first container.

Claim 18. (New) A kit for detecting endotoxin, the kit configured with a defined quantity of endotoxin to serve as a positive control, wherein said defined quantity of endotoxin is pre-certified to positively react with horseshoe crab amebocyte lysate, and whereby the sensitivity of the kit can vary based on the time of incubation of the test.

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